

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 02985 212226Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 665

CONFIDENTIAL ASUNCION 2985

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.), PA

SUBJECT: TODMAN VISIT

REF: A) STATE 169054, B) LANDAU/GRAHAM TELCON 7/21/77

1. SCHEDULE OUTLINED IN REFTEL A IS FINE WITH US AND
WE SHALL START DETAILED PLANNING AS TO YOUR ACTIVITIES.

2. IN TELCON REF B, GRAPHAM INFORMED ME THAT AMBASSADOR
LOPEZ ESCOBAR SUGGESTED THAT YOU COME ON AUGUST 15 TO
OBSERVE THE NATIONAL HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES HIGHLIGHTED
BY A MILITARY PARADE. I MUST STRONGLY ADVISE YOU
AGAINST CONSIDERING HIS OFFER AS IT COULD CAUSE BOTH
YOU PERSONALLY AND THE USG CONSIDERABLE EMBARRASSMENT.
PRESIDENT STROESSNER, WHO ATTENDS PARADE IN FULL UNIFORM,
WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY INVITE YOU TO BE WITH HIM IN THE
REVIEWING STAND AND WOULD OTHERWISE SEEK TO USE YOU FOR
HIS OWN POLITICAL PURPOSES (IN PHOTOS, NEWSREELS AND
TV). WE HAD THE SAME CASE THREE YEARS AGO WHEN
STROESSNER INVITED THE FOUR-STAR GENERAL COMMANDING
US SOUTHCOM FOR THE PARADE. AFTER DISCUSSION WITH
THE STATE DEPARTMENT IT WAS DECIDED THAT HE SHOULD
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NOT COME. (AT THE LAST PARADE SOUTH AFRICAN VICE
CHIEF OF STAFF WAS HONORED GUEST.) BOTH THE OPPOSITION
AND UNDOUBTEDLY THE US PRESS WOULD PICK
UP THE STORY AND THE PHOTOS.

3. I TALKED TO FOREIGN MINISTER NOGIES EARLIER TODAY
ABOUT YOUR LATEST SCHEDULE AND HE DID NOT SUGGEST

ANY CHANGES. THEREFORE, I BELIEVE THAT THIS WAS LOPEZ ESCOBAR'S BRAINCHILD AND IT WOULD INDEED BY A MAJOR COUP FOR HIM IF HE COULD CARRY OUT HIS PLAN.

4. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, I SUGGEST THAT YOU INFORM AMBASSADOR LOPEZ ESCOBAR THAT YOUR SCHEDULE AS SET UP HAS ALREADY BEEN APPROVED BY ALL THE POSTS AND IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO MAKE ANY CHANGES.

LANDAU

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